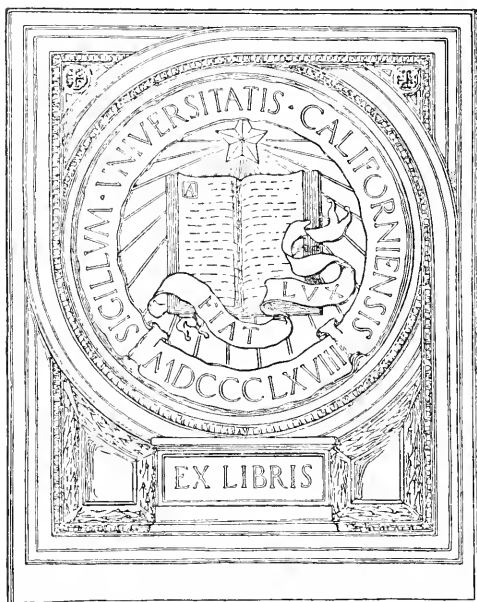


2318
N3C3

A
A
0
0
1
3
3
0
2
9
3
0

The Case of the Democrats of the
State of Nevada

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AT LOS ANGELES



ROBERT ERNEST COWAN



Ampliments of
Democratic State Club
Committee
Charo. Soc.

—THE CASE OF THE—

DEMOCRATS

—OF THE—

STATE OF NEVADA.

ABSTRACT NO. 4441
TRANSLATION NO. 3015

722 4-18-4-4

THE CASE

—OF THE—

DEMOCRATS OF NEVADA.

SYNOPSIS.

Honest and faithful members of the Democratic party should be preferred to dishonest enemies.

Corruption, deception, coercion and perfidy have prevented Democratic success in Nevada; especially at the election in November, 1893.

The silver movement was a plot to elect railroad attorneys to Congress.

The plot was hatched in the office of the Southern Pacific Company, and was promoted by hired Republican bosses and perfidious Democrats.

The conspirators seized the Democratic party organization, vilified Mr. Cleveland, falsified his record, denied Democrats a hearing, or opportunity to vote.

They now seek to perpetuate the new party, yet claim the public patronage as their reward.

Will the Democratic Administration reward and strengthen its enemies, or recognize and encourage its friends?

If the saying, "to the victors belong the spoils," is not to be literally enforced, it must be conceded that organization and discipline are necessary to political success, and that Democratic principles and theories of government can not be promoted by dishonest or unfriendly agencies.

It must also be admitted that party traitors should not be en-

trusted with party power, or rewarded for their treason by the bestowal of patronage. On the contrary, loyalty to party and fidelity to principle, should be recognized and commended, as far as is consistent with good government. It may not be needful, or politic, to expose and punish political perfidy, but it is perilous to take the perfidious into counsel, or clothe them with authority or power.

The State of Nevada has long been dominated by rich demagogues and great corporations—money without principles, and power without soul. By these instrumentalities, and by their illicit and criminal use, a State, naturally Democratic has been coerced and bribed into choosing Republican officials—into electing Republicans to the Senate of the United States. Now and again an abuse more flagrant and infamous than usual, has aroused the public indignation, and temporarily overthrown licentious power, but money and political perfidy have quickly re-established their ascendancy. So potent, and virulent, and persistent have been these influences, that no honest, independent and fearless man—no man not identified with this interest, or supposed to be subservient to it—could hope for political or business success.

Nor are these influences less active, or less potential, or less baleful now than heretofore. At the last election they were everywhere seen, and everywhere successful. In addition to deception and perfidy, bribery, coercion and corruption were openly employed. Conspiracies were formed, treason plotted, offices parcelled out, patronage promised.

Newspapers were employed and speakers hired to falsify records, misrepresent candidates, pervert platforms, excite prejudice, and create and magnify fictitious issues.

In the early spring of 1892, a movement was set on foot to control the politics of Nevada, in the interest of the railroad companies. The movement had its origin in the office of the Southern Pacific Company at San Francisco, California, and an experienced and unscrupulous Republican and railroad boss was employed to promote it.

In its inception it was confined to the election of Senator and Representative in Congress, but it quickly spread, until it involved all offices—County, State and National. The pretense which it put forward was "to benefit silver by showing unanimity and earnestness," but its real, though hidden, purpose was to elect men in the interest of the railroads and trusts, in the interest of high tariff taxes, high and discriminative freights, cheap money and consequent cheap wages; and it culminated in sending Stewart to the Senate and Newlands to Congress—both Republicans; both monopolists; both railroad attorneys; both

opposed to the Interstate Commerce Law; both opposed to forfeiting unearned railroad land grants; both opposed to compelling railroad companies to pay their debts to the nation, and neither of them inhabitants of the State, except for political purposes.

The men selected to do the work, and who assumed the control, were Republican bosses and nominal Democrats, who have never failed to betray the party when opportunity offered which gave them profit or advantage.

The masses were hoodwinked and led step by step into the trap. At first, "Silver Clubs" were organized, and these declared to be non-partisan and non-political, simply "in the interest of silver." When the people, who were unanimous for silver, had signed the rolls, meetings were called, harangues delivered and resolutions adopted, accusing the Government of using its power to destroy mining, the industry by which we live, and denouncing Mr. Harrison and Mr. Cleveland, the then prominent and afterwards successful candidates for nomination for President as "gold bugs," and as "conspirators with bondholders" to oppress and pillage the debtor classes, and "destroy the value of silver." As the strength of the movement became apparent, office-seekers, demagogues and designing men joined it, assumed the control, gave it a political direction, and characterized every man a public enemy who was loyal to the old parties.

In April, 1892, a Democratic convention was called to meet in Winnemucca to elect delegates to the Chicago convention, nominate Presidential Electors and candidates for State offices, and for Representative in Congress.

The instigators of the plot immediately put their agents to work to control this convention. Delegates were appointed, and men sent to the convention with proxies who had abandoned the Democratic party, and who were the avowed advocates of the new movement; men who had no intention of abiding the result of the convention, or supporting its nominees, and whose purpose it was to control the convention in the interest of the enemies of Mr. Cleveland, and of the Democratic party.

Against the efforts and protestations of true Democrats, they elected an avowed new party man Chairman of the convention, who was afterwards an alternate Elector on the Weaver ticket, and supporter of Stewart for the Senate, and who voted for Weaver for President and Newlands for Congress. The editor of the *Silver State*, a radical Weaver man, and afterwards candidate for Elector on the Weaver

ticket, and supporter of Stewart and Newlands, was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions.

Mr. Cleveland was openly denounced, and resolutions were adopted exonerating candidates from party obligations.

A State Central Committee was appointed, nearly all of whom were members of the silver clubs, and a majority of whom were in avowed sympathy with the new party, in open revolt against the Democratic party, and have since used their utmost endeavor to prevent the election of Democrats, secure the election of so-called silver electors and the return of Wm. M. Stewart to the Senate, and election of Francis G. Newlands to Congress.

This committee, when assembled, refused to appoint Democratic Electors, or nominate a candidate for Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Cassidy, thus denying Democrats an opportunity to vote upon National questions.

They refused to levy assessments, or provide funds for campaign purposes; or for advertising the names of the Democratic candidates. They refused to appoint meetings, or assemble the people to hear discussion.

Many members attended and participated in the conventions of the Weaver party, and in nominating candidates upon the Weaver ticket. They participated in their meetings, joined in their processions, and united in the denunciations of the Democratic party, and in the columns uttered against Mr. Cleveland.

They scoffed at, and sneered at, and derided every Democrat who had the honesty and courage to stand by his political convictions, or display the insignia of his party, and stigmatized every man a "gold conspirator," and "enemy of the people," who endorsed the National Democratic platform, or favored the election of its candidates. They classed Cleveland and Harrison, Democrats and Republicans, in the same category; declared that the Democratic party, at the "dictation of Wall street," had "deserted bimetallism, falsified its promises, and repudiated the platform of 1884."

Nor was this done, as is sometimes pretended, in the interest of Mr. Cleveland, or to carry the State out of the Republican column. On the contrary, it was done because it was popular; because it paid, and because Mr. Cleveland was not believed to be in accord with their desire to coin silver into money at the ratio of 16 to 1, free of charge, without restriction or limitation in amount. It was done to defeat Mr. Cleveland and to elect Weaver, or a new man who would pledge himself to free coinage. The history of the movement, the resolutions

that were passed; speeches that were made; the circulars that were issued; the newspaper articles that were printed; the men nominated for Electors, and their well known preferences demonstrate this.

In the platform adopted by the so-called "Silver Party," September 15, 1892, it was declared that Mr. Cleveland had "recommended the repeal of the Bland Act, and the utter demonetization of silver, and used the entire influence of his administration to reduce the money of the world to a gold standard."

It was also declared "that certain enemies of the free and unlimited coinage of silver, and of silver mining in Nevada, styling themselves Democrats, had nominated anti-silver Cleveland Presidential Electors," etc. And that "the movement for silver is now advancing with resistless force under the lead of our gallant standard bearer, James B. Weaver," and that "the people of Nevada will not stay the tide by voting for either Harrison or Cleveland, the representatives of 'gold monopoly,'"

At this convention the so-called silver Electors were pledged and instructed to vote for Weaver and Field, and Wm. M. Stewart was unanimously indorsed for the Senate, and Francis G. Newlands for Congress. And Stewart, in addressing the convention, said:

"I rejoice to know that the people of Nevada have resolved to act for themselves; that they are tired of the trickery and the fraud of using the names Republican and Democrat to serve the purposes of a corrupt and oppressive gold ring. Both of these names have been used for this vile purpose so long that they have become odious to honest men. I call to mind the fact that Grover Cleveland, in 1884, was elected by the people on a free coinage platform. After his election, and before he was inaugurated, he immediately commenced an active campaign for the destruction of silver, and exerted the entire power of his administration to that end."

The resolutions of this convention were unanimously adopted, and the remarks of Mr. Stewart received without dissent and with great applause.

In this convention, participating in its deliberations and prominent in its councils, were the Chairman of the convention which met at Winnemucca to nominate a Democratic ticket, in May, 1892; the Secretary of that convention; the Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, and many members of the State Central Committee appointed by that convention.

After the convention adjourned, and on the same day, the man who was Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions of the Democratic

convention of May 26, 1892, and the only professed Democrat on the silver (or Weaver) electoral ticket, wrote, and published in the *Silver State*, the following:

“In 1884 Cleveland was elected on a platform containing a silver plank, which was considered by the friends of silver as pledging the party unequivocally to the free coinage of silver; to its restoration as money, as it stood before the demonetization Act of 1873. No where during the campaign was the plank construed in any other light. Upon this plank, with this construction placed upon it, the party and Cleveland went before the country and solicited the votes of the people. The people responded and elected him, and placed the Democratic party in power. No sooner had his election been conceded, than Daniel Manning took him under his wing, shaped the policy of his administration, and dictated his infamous letter against silver and in favor of the gold standard. He betrayed his party and his country, and basely surrendered both to the gold trusts, combines and syndicates, and endorsed the fraud of 1873, and the corrupt means by which that crime was consummated.”

The resolutions, speech and editorial quoted are in character with, and a fair example, of all that was written or spoken by the silver papers and orators throughout the campaign, and the Democrats who participated in the movement, many of whom now pretend to have acted in the interest of Cleveland, were as loud and earnest in expressing these false statement as Stewart himself.

* * *

In view of these circumstances, what course should a Democratic Administration pursue towards the men who betrayed and abandoned it? What relation should the President hold towards the men who reviled and lied about him? Should the National Democratic Committee recognize and confide in the men who used, and are still using, their power to destroy the Democratic party, to create and perpetuate a new party? Should the enemies of the party be rewarded with power? Should honor and patronage be bestowed upon them? Should the new party, led by the enemies of democracy, by charlatans, demagogues and bosses, who have simply changed their names, be encouraged and strengthened by public recognition and government support? And should the staunch and stalwart Democrats, who were faithful to the party and its principles, be punished for their fidelity?

We respectfully submit the case for consideration, and trust that a

course will be pursued which will reorganize, purify and strengthen the Democratic party in this State, and ultimately lead to victory.

THEO. WINTERS,
JOSEPH R. RYAN,
B. F. RILEY,

Democratic Electors.

JAMES C. HAGERMAN,
Candidate for Congress.

CHAS. W. IRISH,
~~President~~ *pro tem.*

CHAS. A. JONES,

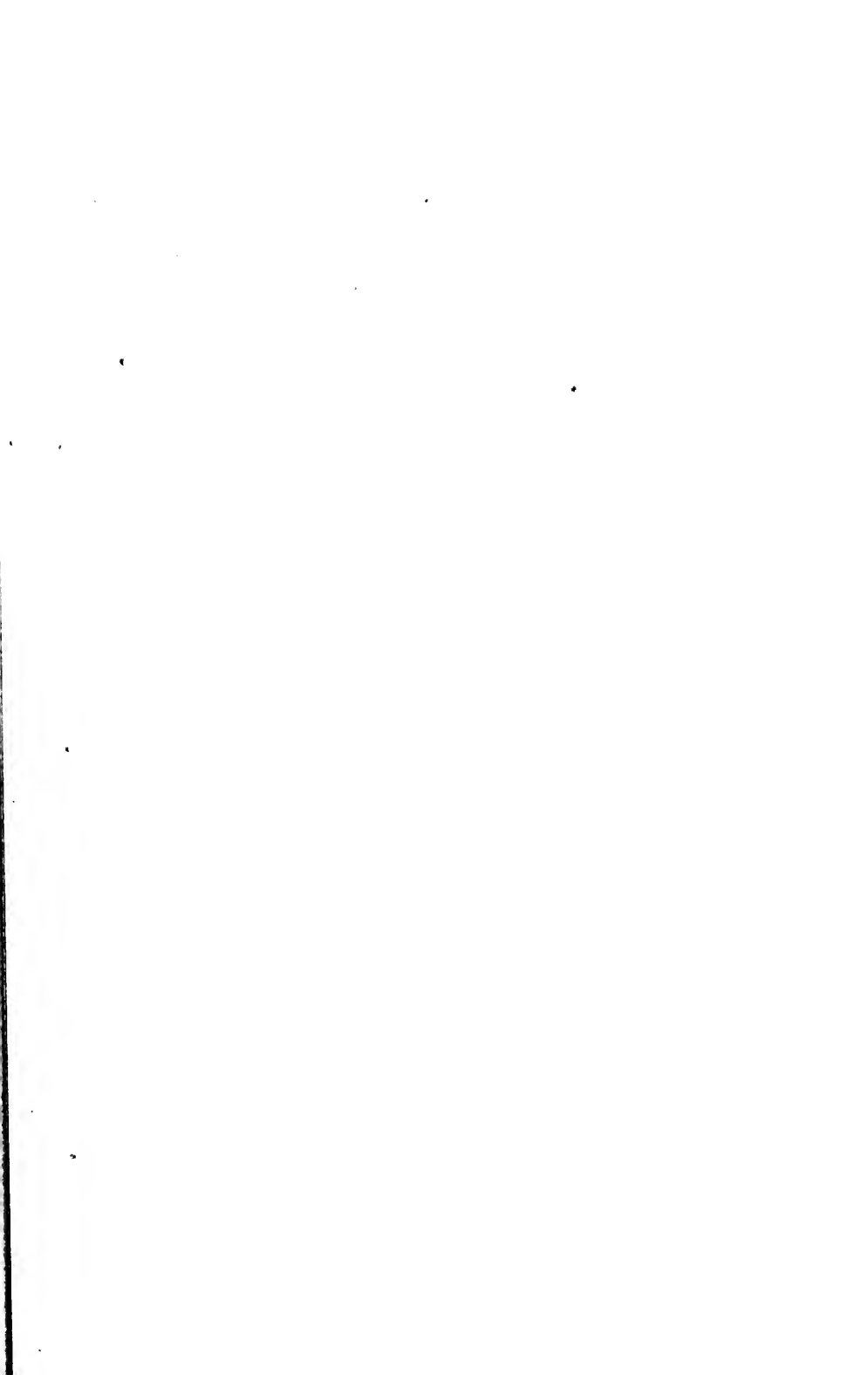
Secretary, *of Democratic*

State central Committee.

RENO, NEVADA, January, 1893.

Chairman, Committee





WEST. 1900

CORNIA

AT

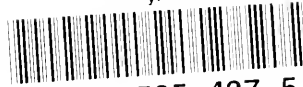
LOS ANGELES

EXHIBIT

UCLA Young Research Library

JK2318.N3 C3

yr



L 009 505 437 5

UC SOUTHERN RESEARCH LIBRARY



AA 001 330 293 0

